IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 5, please amend lines 10-19 as follows:

The invention of ~~claim 1,~~ which has been accomplished to achieve the first object, relates to an accomplished to achieve the first object, relates to an oligonucleotide for cleavage, detection or amplification of the mecA gene, a gene element of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), or RNA derived from said gene, which oligonucleotide is capable of binding specifically to said mecA gene or RNA derived thereform, and comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 to 17, or an oligonucleotide complementary to said oligonucleotide.

On page 5, please amend lines 20 to 24 as follows:

~~The invention of claim 2, which has been accomplished to achieve the aforementioned object, relates to the oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said~~ In one embodiment, the oligonucleotide is an oligonucleotide primer for DNA elongation reaction.

On page 5, please amend lines 25 to 30 as follows:

~~The invention of claim 3, which has been accomplished to achieve the aforementioned object, relates to the oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said~~ In another embodiment, the oligonucleotide is an oligonucleotide probe a portion of which is modified or labeled with a detectable marker.

On page 5, please amend lines 31-37 as follows:

~~The invention of claim 4, which has been accomplished to achieve the aforementioned object, relates to the oligonucleotide according to claim 3, wherein said~~ In another embodiment, the oligonucleotide is a synthetic oligonucleotide in which a portion of its base(s) is (are) modified without impairing the function of said oligonucleotide as an oligonucleotide probe.